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THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008

Debate heats up Austin

Democratic candidates duked it out Thursday with no clear winner

By Claire St. Amant
City editor

AUSTIN — In the lone debate in the lone star state, democratic presidential candidates Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., chose to emphasize their similarities rather than their differences.

The tone of the debate was markedly amicable. Despite weeks of critical comments from both candidates, the harshest

criticisms were reserved for the Bush administration. Obama and Clinton were quick to point out contrasts between themselves and Bush, highlighting diplomatic policies and immigration reform.

"The Bush administration has done so much damage to American foreign relations," Obama said, referencing Bush's refusal to meet with leaders of America's "enemies."

In one of the few contrasts of the debate, Clinton said she would have preconditions in order to meet with Raul Castro, the proposed successor to Fidel Castro in Cuba, while Obama said he would meet without

them.

The candidates found common ground, though, on the need to open lines of communication with Cuba and other countries such as Iran and North Korea.

"I do think we should be eliminating the (foreign) policy of the Bush administration, which has been very narrowly defined, and frankly against our interests, because we have failed to reach out to countries," Clinton said.

Clinton spoke passionately and enthusiastically, not at all appearing as a candidate, as

CNN senior political analyst Bill Schneider said, at what could be her "end game."

Super delegate Senfronia Thompson, a Texas state representative and pledged Clinton supporter, said Clinton showed "significant improvement" from past debates.

"This time around she showed a lot of passion," Thompson said. "It was 180 degrees different than her past performances."

In a turning point in the debate, CNN moderator John King, effectively called the candidates out for such civility in the wake of a heated fight for the



Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., looks on as Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., responds to a question Thursday during a Democratic presidential debate in Austin.

Please see DEBATE, page 5



David Poe/Lariat staff

Busting a move

KOT performs "From the Bayou to the Big Easy" Thursday as part of All-University Sing in Waco Hall. Sing performances are held at 6:30 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday, as well as Feb. 28 through March 1 in Waco Hall. For in-depth Sing coverage, see page 6.

Professors may develop new test for blood-sugar

By Shannon Daily
Staff writer

Two Baylor researchers are literally bleeding for their work.

The two men, Dr. Randall Jean, an associate professor, and Dr. Robert Marks, a distinguished professor, both in the department of electrical and computer engineering, are working to develop a non-invasive test for blood-sugar levels.

But for now the technology is still at its early stages.

To start off the test they've developed, the subject places his or her thumb in a small sensor that emits electromagnetic waves. Then, that electromagnetic energy interacts with the subject's thumb, which changes the way the energy moves through the sensor.

The machine then reads those changes in energy, which, if everything goes according to plan, eventually will lead to the subject being able to read his or her own sugar level.

Melanie McClung, a graduate student in bio-medical engineering who is working on the project, said right now they're taking actual glucose levels using finger-prick tests and trying to calibrate the machine to get it to match the results.

They're also working on developing a better sensor and a better machine to read the data, McClung said.

Both Jean and Marks have done the finger-prick tests on themselves multiple times.

The researchers have completed studies to show that this works for a number of different people, Jean said.

"Now we need to verify that this'll work for anybody," he said.

The latest test was administered to around 20 subjects and the results came out "very, very well,"



Jean



Marks

Please see BLOOD, page 5

Bears need win against No. 22 K-State

Saturday's contest could sway decision for NCAA tournament selection committee

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

Men's basketball head coach Scott Drew doesn't have many answers for Baylor's current slide, but he knows things have to change — and fast.

With Baylor falling quickly in the Big 12 standings — they now straddle the top and bottom halves at No. 6 — Baylor's margin for error has been completely eliminated.

Sitting at 17-8 and 5-6 in the Big 12, every Baylor game becomes a precious audition

tape for the NCAA Tournament's selection committee. Absorbing a fifth straight loss could sink Baylor's once-lofty post-season hopes for good.

"It's good to know the big picture ... and the importance of each game, but at the same time, every game — and right now there's only five of them left — they're all huge," Drew said.

That makes Baylor's home match-up with No. 22 Kansas State University (18-7, 8-3) at 7 p.m. Saturday the most critical of the season thus far.

A loss Saturday could sink the Bears deeper in the Big 12 standings and loosen their grip on a spot in the Big 12's top six, the perceived cut-off point for the NCAA Tournament.

"Not all of that is just attrib-

uted to us. You have to give the teams we're playing credit," Drew said. "Early in the year some teams missed free throws, they missed shots, and now we're playing some teams that are making free throws and making tough shots, so I think it's a two-way street."

The Bears' resume was sullied on the road Tuesday night in a heartbreaking 92-91 overtime loss to the University of Oklahoma. Baylor mounted a 12-2 run in the final minutes of regulation to even the game and send it into overtime. Leading by three with seven seconds left, Sooner guard Tony Crocker leaned into an Aaron Bruce challenge, hit the shot and his free throw and

Please see K-STATE, page 7



Reserve, La., sophomore guard Tweety Carter brings the ball up the court during the Bears Feb. 16 loss to the University of Texas (82-77).

Alex Song/Lariat staff

Coach Carter: the use of knowledge is power

By Elizabeth Herring
Reporter

"Let's get ready to rumble!" the music cheered as Coach Ken Carter entered the banquet, whistle blaring, on the fifth floor of Cashion Academic Center. He threw prizes and gave high-fives to the audience.

"I know what a lot of you are thinking: that's not Samuel L. Jackson" Carter said as he began

his speech addressed to the 21st Annual Black Heritage Banquet hosted by the Association of Black Students.

The theme of Black Heritage Month has been overcoming obstacles. Houston junior Breia Fisher said she hopes that this event will help students gain some "insight into the importance of celebrating Black Heritage not only today, but all year long."

Carter spoke about being

involved in life. He said everyone should be on a team that can keep everyone around them accountable. He also talked about the importance of integrity.

Houston senior Ashley Francis said Coach Carter "exemplified overcoming obstacles" and that is why ABS chose him as their speaker.

He told the audience to write down their future plans and goals. "When you write things

down, they're ten times more likely to come true," Carter said.

Carter grew up in a small Mississippi town called McComb. He came from a poor family and grew up with only two sets of clothes.

He had to fight for everything he wanted. He wrote down all his goals and aspirations and he accomplished what he set out to

Please see COACH, page 5



Coach Ken Carter speaks Thursday on the fifth floor of Cashion Academic Center.

Alex Song/Lariat staff

State decision may pose threat to study of science

Inside the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills science standards is a provision that requires students to "analyze, review, and critique scientific explanations, including hypotheses and theories, as to their strengths and weaknesses using scientific evidence and information."

This entirely sensible requirement is in danger from anti-evolutionists on the Texas State Board of Education.

Not content to keep their faith and misgivings with science to themselves, the creationists in charge of Texas students' education have adopted a new strategy. What is their proposed solution to eradicate evolution from the classroom? More evolution! Well, not exactly.

They want to teach an attenuated, scientifically flawed and troubled theory of evolution, and they will try to sneak their bogus objections and fabricated controversies into the curriculum by hiding behind the "strengths and weaknesses" clause.

To understand why they're using this approach, it's useful to look at the history of creationism.

Back in the early 20th century, creationists had an easier time arguing their case. Merely asserting the incompatibility of science and a literal interpretation of the Bible was enough to keep Darwin out of the classroom.

In 1968, the Supreme Court ruled anti-evolution laws uncon-

point of view

BY CODY COBB

stitutional. In 1975, a similar ruling required "equal time" between evolution and creationism in the classroom. To survive, the creationists had to evolve: they stripped overt biblical references from their writings, changed "God" to "Creator" and rebranded themselves Creation Scientists. Their scientific conclusions preceded their biblical views so, they argued, Creation Science can be taught in the classroom.

The Supreme Court ended this ruse in 1987 with *Edwards v. Aguillard*, which correctly identified the religious nature of Creation Science and its inherent violation of the establishment clause.

Around this time, a funny thing happened. A manuscript called *Biology and Origins* received a face-lift. Newly retitled *Of Pandas and People*, the pre-Edwards terminology of "intelligent creator" and "creation" inside were replaced with "intelligent agency" and "intelligent design," leaving the context unchanged.

This new species of creationism was coined Intelligent Design, but it suffered a humiliating defeat in 2005 when a federal judge ruled the concept was

inherently religious and therefore unsuitable for the classroom. This pressure spurred the growth of a new survival strategy.

Now, instead of teaching the Bible, science derived from the Bible, or science compatible only with the Bible or all the same arguments with fancy new names, today's creationists have adopted a superficially reasonable position: teach the controversy.

Nothing has changed but the name. The paradigm of creationism has been the same in every guise: evolution cannot possibly explain X, therefore (synonym for God) did it.

The 'teach the controversy' plan's only novelty is the omission of the final clause, but the

goal is the same. After undermining science in the schools, creationists will have no trouble convincing people, "All that stuff science can't explain? God did it."

And that's the present danger we face. The existing standards require students to analyze, review and critique scientific explanations.

The current state board wants to alter the state's science standards to allow non-scientific critiques of evolution into the classroom.

Their methods and motives are clear. For Texas Christians who respect science and the constitution, now is the time to be outraged.

Cody Cobb is a senior biochemistry major from Spring.

Editorial

Activism making an impact

We all know them: the kid in your math class in the Ron Paul shirt, the girl at work who has a crush on Obama and that guy in your Poli Sci class who just can't stop talking about John McCain.

You may think, sure, political activism is nice, but does it really make a difference? Does anyone notice?

Apparently the answer to both questions is a resounding yes.

Sen. Barack Obama opened a Waco campaign office last week and Sen. Hillary Clinton is scheduled to follow suit sometime this week. There's no word on whether any Republican candidates are planning on opening offices, but we can hope.

According to a Feb. 14 story in *The Baylor Lariat*, Obama's Waco office is one of only 10 offices the campaign will establish nationwide.

You may well ask: Why Waco?

According to the same article, Waco appeared on the radar at Obama's national headquarters due to the large number of political groups around town, both on campus and off.

A representative from Clinton's campaign told *The Baylor Lariat* Tuesday that the decision to open a field office here had nothing to do with Obama's campaign office.

Instead, she said the political activity here encouraged voting and this made Waco an important stop on the campaign trail.

That means that our interest and activity in politics, however insignificant it may seem to you, is what caught the interest of not one, but two national candidates.



Whether you like these candidates or not, you should be excited that they're here. More campaign offices mean more chances for voters to make informed decisions and for students to get involved in the campaigns. At this stage in the election, Texas is shaping up to be an important state. There are 228 Democratic delegates up for grabs, and that means, come election time, it will be a battleground.

For those already interested in politics, these offices offer a good chance to get involved at the ground level. For those not interested already,

maybe it's time to get excited. This is a chance for your vote to actually make a difference.

If there's a candidate here you're excited about, go by their office and get involved.

If no one here interests you, see what you can do to encourage other candidates to bring their offices to Waco. The primary is in two weeks, but it's not too late.

However, it's important to remember that all the campaign offices in the world won't do any good if we don't actually exercise our right to vote. If

you're voting by absentee ballot, the county you are registered in must receive your application for a ballot by mail by Feb. 26. There's still time! If you miss the primary this time around, please vote in the election in November.

After all, when the day is over, a T-shirt is just a T-shirt, no matter whose face is on it. It's the person wearing the shirt that makes a difference.

Let's make sure that Baylor's (and Waco's) political activism is more than skin deep.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

Corrections policy

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

A subscription to the Lariat costs \$45 for two semesters. Send check or money order to One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX, 76798-7330 or e-mail Lariat_ads@baylor.edu. Visa, Discover and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Letters to the editor

Guns can aid campus safety

I was shocked and saddened when the news broke last week that a shooter at Northern Illinois University had opened fire and killed five innocent students before taking his own life. The natural reaction should be to do something to make school campuses safer.

While there have been many different proposals made about how to increase safety on school campuses, only one of them will be easy to implement, cost nothing and make a huge impact: allow concealed handgun

licensees to carry their weapons on school premises.

Opponents of such a plan say that more guns on campuses will inevitably lead to more violence, but they are totally disregarding the vital statistics that say otherwise.

Nine universities in the state of Utah and two other universities have allowed concealed carry licensees to carry on campus for a combined 60 semesters and no incidents of gun violence, gun theft or any other gun-related crime have been reported.

According to the *San Antonio*

Express News, concealed carry license holders in the state of Texas are 14 times less likely to commit a crime, a clip that exceeds that law enforcement officers.

The most important viewpoint to understand, however, is that of the criminal. Laws clearly don't deter criminals because by their very nature they are law-breakers.

The black market for guns is so prevalent in the United States that anyone could obtain a gun and simply bypass every law pertaining to them.

Increasing law enforcement

on school campuses and optimizing emergency response systems could conceivably reduce the death toll, but like at Northern Illinois where a system had been implemented, it will not deter a criminal from opening fire on innocent students.

This is no doubt a controversial issue, but when people stop allowing their emotions to make decisions for them and start looking at real statistics and using logical reasoning, it becomes clear that we need to allow these responsible citizens to do their part to make our campuses safer.

Justin Ersch
Finance, Entrepreneurship & Real Estate, 2008

Evolution taught too often

As a former biology major at Baylor University, I was always a bit uneasy about the rampant evolution taught in my classes.

When anyone would bring up a Christian point of view, it was generally met with a smile and nod and a "yes, some people think that," but I had only one professor who actually presented a creationist view to the class.

While I understand Baylor's

position in needing professors to research in the subject they were hired for (the excuse claimed in the Dembski fiasco, which was the most striking incidence of anti-intelligent design policy at Baylor), I'm a little confused as to why a good Southern Baptist university doesn't seek out individuals specifically for the purpose of researching intelligent design.

I would like to see Baylor's science departments contribute Christian thought to their disciplines as other departments at Baylor have done.

Helen Hurley
Alumna 2007

The Baylor Lariat

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Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells. Includes text: HARD #49. Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS: 1 Somewhat wet, 5 Poet Teasdale, 61 Shut up, 68 Satellite of Jupiter, 69 Squat down, 70 Philosopher Immanuel, 71 Letter flourish, 72 Makes up one's mind, 73 Word before jerk or water, 59 Corrida cheer, 60 "___ Gotta Be Me", 23 Watson of golf, 24 Online notes, 25 Discernment, 26 Contents abbreviation, 27 Maui feast, 28 Hint at, 33 Add color to, 35 Define article, 37 Slip away from, 38 Old treasure, 39 T-bone or strip, 41 Actor Franco, 42 Departure, 43 Remembers, once, 48 God of Thebes, 49 Ohio city, 51 Golfer Ballesteros, 53 "___ in Toyland", 54 Early-stage seed, 55 Crimean resident, 56 Sick and tired, 57 Office furniture, 62 Dent or corn starter?, 63 Clumsy fellow, 64 10 of calendars, 65 Thai ethnic group, 66 Ky. neighbor, 67 School org.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for clues.

By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY 2/22/08

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

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Church and state friends, speaker explains

By Stephen Jablonski
Reporter

The separation of church and state likely conjures notions of a secular government. Peter A. Lillback, president and professor of historical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, argues that this was not the intention of our forefathers.

Lillback lectured February 21 at the SBC Theatre in the Mayborn Museum, presented by the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion. Lillback addressed the false connotation behind the phrase "separation of church and state," as refined in his book, "Wall of Misconception: Does the Separation of Church and State Mean the Separation of God and Government?"

"The problem is that phrase has been picked up and used for constitutional interpretation of the first amendment, (and) that our courts have started to describe the wall as a high and impregnable wall," Lillback said. "Instead of being a wall that separates friends, it's been made a wall of hostility."

Lillback said that our founding fathers did not envision a secular government, and that the Constitution itself con-

cludes with the words "in the year of our Lord, 1787." He said he believes this is constitutionally correct.

"I'm wanting to argue that a faith-friendly government is permissible in light of our first amendment, even while I recognize our constitution makes it very clear that there should be no test of religion for anyone who fulfills an office," Lillback said. "And that's the balance of a true American pluralism."

Dr. Byron Johnson, co-director of the Institute for Studies of Religion and professor of sociology, said this is not a lecture that has typically taken place at Baylor.

"The lecture kind of runs counter to the conventional wisdom that has been apart of Baylor for many years," Johnson said. "That doesn't mean that many people at Baylor would disagree. I think that many people would agree with the content...but I do think that there will still be people at Baylor who won't receive that content very well."

Johnson said Baylor University has had "a very vocal history of strict separation." Dr. William H. Bellinger, chairman and professor of the department of religion, upholds this history.

"The separation of church and state is an important principle in Baptist tradition. Some emphasize that church should not dictate to state. I believe that it is at least as important that state not meddle in church life," Bellinger said. "So for the health of both, separation of church and state is essential."

Johnson said he hopes Baylor, as an educational institution, will hold more debates that will cause people to think.

"We believe it's the role of the university to bring in scholars from all kinds of persuasions and let their voices be heard and then let people debate what these scholars are saying," Johnson said. "It's just the part of being a great university."

Lillback said he agrees with the necessity of scholarly discussion.

"We can test ideas to see if Christianity is a world view or just a private faith. If it's not a world view, it will not be able to engage other philosophical positions. If it can engage them and demonstrate a coherent, cohesive claim to interpret reality then you're saying it is a philosophical model that belongs in a university; it takes on alternate perspective," Lillback said.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Peter A. Lillback, president and professor of historical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary spoke Thursday evening about separation of church and state.

Mayborn museum parking to accommodate students

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

The senate voted unanimously to pass a parking resolution stating that there should be a designated area for student parking at the Mayborn Museum.

Currently, there are only spots for faculty and visitors. Some classes such as Environmental Science require students to travel to the museum, and if they drive then they get fined for parking in the only spots available to them.

"People really push exhibits that are over there on campus

but it forces students to walk or park a long distance away and then walk," said Bush Prairie, Wash., junior Chase McVicker. "I think we could get more students over there with student parking spaces."

Senate also passed a parking resolution regarding the visitor parking lots and visitor decals on campus.

Since signs posted at visitor parking lots don't mandate that a visitor decal is required, many students, and even visitors, park there thinking they don't need a decal and are ticketed.

"Every other type of parking says that a decal is required, but visitor's parking does not," said

James Nortey, chief justice of the supreme court. "It's conceivable that students would think they can park there, because administration hasn't made the rules clear. This resolution would help fix that problem."

Upperclass students who live off campus often make this mistake, reasoning that since they live off campus and don't have a student decal, the few times they drive to campus they can be considered visitors.

Even students who temporarily have a different car are penalized for parking in visitor parking lots without a decal.

"My car has a student decal on it, but one time I borrowed

my mom's for the weekend," Pflugerville junior Laura Rivers said. "I parked in visitors parking because in her car, I thought I technically was a visitor. I ended up getting and having to pay for a ticket because I didn't have a decal. No one knows you even need one because it's not advertised anywhere."

The support resolution would require that signs at the visitor parking locations indicate that a visitor parking decal is required in order to park there.

Senate passed a joint resolution in which they recommended that fax machines be provided for students' use free of charge, and that copy machines

allow for the use of paw prints as well.

Student Senate also approved the appointment of Houston freshman Jacob Voncannon to the external vice president's cabinet at Thursday night's meeting.

Senate also unanimously passed a support resolution for the student body of Northern Illinois University in the wake of the recent tragic events on their campus.

The resolution sent a message of encouragement and support to the students and faculty members there from the student body of Baylor University.

Nigerian religious conflict topic of speech

Belinda Colunga
Reporter

She found the brutalized bodies of her two children, Dr. Christian van Gorder said.

This was the tragic ending of a woman and her family who attempted to escape the bullets flying passed her.

The reason? Their religion. "You're fighting for your faith. You fight for the most important thing in your world," he said.

van Gorder, an associate professor of world religions, revealed the situation in Nigeria to a group of students Thursday in Draper Academic Building. He spoke in reference to the Muslim and Christian riots that have plagued the poor communities in Nigeria for more than 20 years.

"It's important because this situation in Nigeria is difficult... and the factors that created the deaths are still in place," van Gorder said.

According to statistical analysis he presented, more than 100,000 Christians and Mus-

lims have been killed because of religious conflict. Although each group, if asked, will say it's the dominant group, the truth is 50 percent of the people are Muslim and 40 percent are Christian, he said.

The other 10 percent are adherents to tribal religions, but the internal war is between the Christians and Muslims, van Gorder said.

"Nigeria is an amazing place in terms of religious fervor," van Gorder said. "It's the most religious country in the world."

The causes for religious persecution among Christians and Muslims may include historical animosity and political, economic, and social power struggle, van Gorder said.

To get a sense of how intense the battles are, van Gorder showed pictures of people fighting with machetes, while another picture illustrated the result of it.

A young boy's arm was chopped in half.

"As we've seen from developing conflict in the Middle East,

poverty and religious conflict isn't stagnant," San Antonio senior Alex Moorman said. "The people that are dying in Nigeria are human just like you and I, that want to live their lives."

Many have already fled the region, van Gorder said.

van Gorder explained the tragic events that took place in the five regions of Nigeria: Kafanchan, Kano, Kaduna, Jos and Yelwa.

War among the Nigerian people is prevalent in each of these places. Churches are burned down, people are decapitated or hacked to death with machetes, and then dragged through the streets, he said.

In March 1996, Muslims attacked Christians simply for reciting a poem because they believe it's promoting their religion. People are also killed on the spot if they can't recite the Lord's Prayer, he said.

While in America beauty contests are seen as a way of honoring young girls and women for their talents and minds, in Jos they're viewed as promoting

"nakedness" and the spreading of AIDS.

"It's important for people, like myself, that live such safe, secure lives to be concerned about people less fortunate than ourselves," Moorman said. "He's bringing light to an issue that needs to be addressed by the international community."

But the international community has yet to provide some form solution to this situation.

"The Nigerian government is trying to keep it internal," van Gorder said. Therefore, religious conflict continues as long as no one does anything about it, not even the Nigerian government, van Gorder said.

Many events are kept hidden from the media and many are never reported, he said.

"I didn't know very much about Nigeria or how long it had been going on," Dr. George Gawrych, associate professor of history, said.

While Nigerians continue fighting for their faith, their life expectancy decreases to 47 years of age, van Gorder said.

BEAR BRIEFS

The Concert Jazz Ensemble will be putting on a concert 7:30 p.m. Monday in Jones Concert Hall. The concert is open to the public. For more information call the School of Music at 710-3991.

Scholarship opportunities are now available for the 2008-2009 school year. Go to the financial aid homepage at www.baylor.edu/finaid to look up available scholarships.

The History Department will play host to Dr. Donald Worcester at 3:30 p.m. today in 100 Morrison Hall as part of the Edmondson Historical Lecture series. He will give a lecture on "A Biographical Perspective on Environmental History." For more information contact the history department at 710-2667.

Mortar Board, a senior honor society, is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. Juniors with a minimum of 3.2 GPA are encouraged to apply. Applications are available at the Student Activities office or online at www3.baylor.edu/MortarBoard.

Deborah Williamson, a soprano, will present a concert at 6 p.m. Monday at the Roxy Grove Hall. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

Student Activities will introduce Dr. Charles Marsh, published author and director of the Project on Lived Theology at the University of Virginia, 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Baines-Fentress room of the Bill Daniels Student Center. The first 30 attendants will get free books, and refreshments will be provided.

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Clinton supporter on the street in Austin

Frances McNair
San Marcos teacher

What are you most interested in hearing about tonight?

The environment is very important to me. I am an environmentalist.



McNair

How do you feel about Clinton's ability to address environmental issues?

If you look back on the 90's, it was a good decade for clean air and clean water, and then the bush administration has been a disaster with all (his) anti-environmental policies. I think she knows exactly where we need to go with that.

Obama supporter on the street in Austin

Frank Lockwood
Lawyer from Hawaii

What are you most interested in hearing about tonight?

I think the most important issue in the debate is campaign finance reform.



Lockwood

How do you feel about Obama's ability to address campaign finance reform?

The fact that he hasn't taken any money from special interest groups or lobbyists is huge. That's never been done before. He's done it, and he's raised more money than Hillary. He's created a movement that's bigger than Hillary's.

DEBATE from page 1

democratic nomination. CNN contributor and frequent columnist Roland Martin called the first part of the debate "extremely slow," but said it was clear that the moderators "wanted some punch" in the conversation. "It really picked up steam when she began to talk about his speeches and his words," Martin said. "That was a very sharp exchange." In the past few weeks, the Clinton campaign called attention to Obama's use of several sentences that are similar to those of Deval Patrick, the governor of Massachusetts, an Obama supporter and co-chairman of his campaign. Clinton called the use of the words, "Change you can Xerox," which did not go over well with the crowd. "I was sitting on the second row, and I heard hissing," Martin said. "Nearly the entire audience started hissing when she made that comment." With the exception of a few heated exchanges on health care and the aforementioned

issue, the candidates seemed committed to focusing their attention on the common goals of the Democratic Party. The economy conundrum was discussed at length, with Obama and Clinton both pledging they are the one to turn it around and not Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona. "I think that I will be very comfortable and effective in taking on Sen. (John) McCain over the fiscal irresponsibility of the Republican Party that he's been a part of," Clinton said. Obama said the war is fundamentally at odds with repairing the economy. "As John McCain says, he doesn't really understand the economy that well," Obama said. "It is clear from his embrace of George Bush's policies that he doesn't, and that's what I intend to change when I am president of the United States of America." Although commentators stated earlier in the week that Clinton would have to make a strong showing in the debate to stay competitive, no one was willing to say if she managed to do that decisively.



David Poe/Lariat staff

George Lopez answers questions Thursday regarding the Democratic debate held at the University of Texas - Austin. Lopez said he doesn't believe (Sen. Clinton) did well enough in the debate to win over Texas.

"She may have done better in foreign policy," Martin said. "But he got the better of her concerning the speech comments. I didn't see a homerun for either candidate." State Representative Chet Edwards D-Texas, who endorsed

Obama this week, said he thought there was a winner. "It was mostly a respectful debate," Edwards said. "I think people saw two leaders that share many values, but I think Senator Obama's message about bringing change wins the day."

BLOOD from page 1

Marks said he is excited about working to get a low cost non-invasive technique for people with diabetes to use. "It's the whole idea that it affects and betters life in the world. It's nice to be a part of something with an impact," he said. The researchers are trying to keep with the idea of developing

appropriate technology, Marks said. This means that the technology is logical for the country to have. For example, Marks said, it wouldn't be logical for a third-world country to invest in a new super computer. "But this is something that could really make a difference," Marks said. He said he believes it would be very effective in third-world countries because it would cut back on the use of needles, and

overall be a more sanitary way to administer the test. While the two men work within the same department, they focus on different areas of the research. "Randall's a genius at microwaves, and my specialty is taking data and squeezing information out of it," Marks said. Marks and Jean originally met in 2003 during their new faculty orientation and were discussing research opportunities shortly thereafter, Marks said. "At Baylor each professor is

their own kind of entrepreneur," Marks said. Professors create proposals and base their research upon what they're interested in. This is one area the two men were both interested in, and their backgrounds just happened to compliment each other very well, Marks said. Right now Marks and Jean are in the process of writing a proposal for research funding from the National Institutes of Health, which would help move their research to the next level.

Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



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COACH from page 1

do. Carter oversaw the Richmond (Calif.) High School basketball program from 1997 through 2002. He closed his gym to his athletes when their grades were suffering even though they were undefeated. This choice made news and a movie bearing his name and starring Samuel L. Jackson in 2005. Carter said students in Richmond have a much higher chance of going to jail than they do of graduating high school. Through his diligence, Carter has had all of the seniors on his basketball teams graduate and go to college. "You gotta be tough in this world," Carter said. He spoke on the importance of having the right information. With the right information you can make a difference in your life, Carter said. "Knowledge is not power, the use of knowledge is power," Carter said. One other element Carter viewed as important to life is the ability to laugh at yourself. "We can't be all serious all the time," he said. Carter got the audience on their feet and participating. When talking about our choices in life, he said to always choose experience over money. Carter said you can always learn from experience, but the money you hold onto will always be money; it does not change. He challenged the audience to reach their full potential and not complain all the time. "I can't stand them naggers," Carter said. He said many people are too scared to reach their potential: "We all have fears, but let someone else tell you no." Everyone is born with two fears, he said, "falling and loud noises." The rest are learned. He told the audience a secret they should know about life: "This thing we call life... you better live it because you can't get out alive."

How SING acts stack up

ΔΔΔ
 Christmas came twice this year for the Tri Delta women as they presented a colorful creation called **"'Twas the Day After Christmas."** Energetic elves filled the stage with sound and even brought Santa and the reindeer along. Loud and proud, from their great a cappella start to their flashy costumes, the Tri Deltas made our nice list this year.

ΚΚΤΙΚΣ
 This co-ed group pulled out all the stops when they sailed into port and went out **"On the Town"** with this swingin' act. The '30s-inspired theme could've been cliché, but originality, liveliness and polished moves gave it a new spin. With the energy levels through the roof, they nailed every step and solo. The women were flappers, while the men literally flipped and gave the audience an infectious, truly entertaining experience.

ΦΓΔ
 The Fiji's dove into their performance of **"In Our Yellow Submarine,"** and surfaced with a splash. The originality and enthusiasm was engaging and entertaining, to say the least. While other sets were sub-par, this one was just a sub — complete with periscope, singing sea men and a surprise guest. They even paid homage to *The Little Mermaid* with a rendition of "Under the Sea." No sea-sickness with this act, but your stomach might ache from laughter.

ΧΩ
 Chi O's taught us how to do **"Trespassin'"** the glam way, with red sparkles and frilly frocks, of course. Though the theme was misleading, the barn dance that followed showcased skillful soloists and an impressive fiddler as they danced the "Cotton-Eyed Joe." Though they weren't truly trespassin', they sure knew how to ride the "Sin Wagon."

ΑΤΩ
 ATO showed a new kind of hospitality with **"Be Our Guest,"** a fun act set in a hotel lobby with the most enthusiastic bell boys you'll ever see. The energy stayed high even as they sang "going down ..." for a creative rendition of "Love in an Elevator." Don't check your luggage at this hotel though, because it's likely to get thrown around a bit.

Pizzazz fills performances, as groups step up the game

By Amanda Robison and Bethany Poller
 Entertainment editor and Assistant city editor

The Spring 2008 All-University Sing performances kicked off last night in Waco Hall, and we've got the play-by-play in case you missed it. And it will come as no surprise that two groups who placed in the top three in last year's Sing are our pick for 2008's best all-around act. Though there was some stiff competition, we think Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Sigma's joint act, "On The Town," deserves the big prize, epitomizing everything Sing stands for: fun, unity and pure entertainment. Phi Gamma Delta's "In Our Yellow Submarine," will surely be a crowd favorite with some of the most creative (not to

mention hilarious) elements Sing has seen in a while. The acts that seemed to be the most appealing were from groups who thought outside the box and made the acts their own. The Tri Delta elves' spirit and KOT's country dance moves were excellent, and the Zetas hit the road and rocked the house.

Our only complaint would be that some groups' titles sounded promising, they proved to be misleading when groups strayed from the themes and left audiences a little confused. Performers gave it their all, however, and made the acts fun to watch.

Overall, the Sing performances this year will not disappoint, so don't forget to pick up tickets in the Bill Daniel Student Center before it's too late.

ΠΒΦ
 They may not have been in Moody, but there was some **"Mischief in the Library,"** when Pi Phi took the stage. With giant books as props, they proceeded to disregard quiet hours, as well as their theme as they sang "Let's Dance On." The overall energy was high and the book nerds brought some much-needed humor to a dull subject.

ΑΧΩ
 The women of A-Chi-O took the audience back to a familiar place with **"Of Thee I Sing"** ... but maybe a little too familiar. The banjo duel and funny contests at the 4th of July extravaganza added some spice to the cook-out as they rehashed American anthems. And though the singing and dancing were nice, the patriotic theme is a little tired.

ΚΩΤ
 KOT broke it down in **"From the Bayou to the Big Easy,"** with a perfectly synchronized routine, chock-full of energy and smooth Southern charm. The smoky start and stunning backdrop set the stage for an impressive performance and the most manly jazz hands we've seen yet. From country bumpkins to blues crooners, KOT hit all the right notes.

ΚΑΘ
 The so-called "Blues Sisters" brought a peppy performance to the **"Theta's Blues House"** as the women touted neon outfits and tried to gain access to a Chicago-style blues club. The style, smiles and signature blues shades were a nice touch, but the only group singing any blues was the audience after the theme apparently got thrown by the wayside.

ΦΚΧ
 Tap-dancing inmates took the stage in Phi Chi's **"Ain't No Chain"** and through their cells proved "you're never gonna break (their) faith." The striped prison garb added uniformity to their dancing, and bars didn't stifle the soloists. They rocked the cell block, but the monotony of prison life seemed to show through in the routine's lack of variety.

ΑΔΠ
 With a unique concept and great set, ADPi had potential to show the audience a good time, but instead had them checking their watches. The theme, **"Racing with the Clock,"** got confusing and the multitude of clocks drowned out the actual performance. The soloists were nice and we enjoyed the clock mice, but not enough to save ADPi.

ΣΑ
 Though most would consider explorers and natives anything but **"A Perfect Match,"** Sing Alliance brought the two together in their act, complete with spear-carrying savages, pilgrims in short skirts and a giant totem pole. High energy and Disney songs made the performance fun to watch, but the lack of variety left the audience wanting a new discovery.

ΖΕΑ
 The Zetas caused a traffic jam while **"Rockin' Down the Highway"** in creative cardboard cars and colorful costumes. Cab-bies, truckers and grannies battled it out for the right of way while dancing, singing and dodging human cones. The songs were right on track until they hit a bump in the road with "Hit Me Baby, One More Time."

ΣΑΕ
 It may seem a little desperate to give the pizza delivery guy a solo, but for SAE, **"Saturday Night's Alright"** when you've got a hoppin' party with penguins, white rappers and a gorilla who can do the worm. There seemed to be no strangers at this *Animal House*-style party, but the banana did seem a little out of place.

ΚΧΑ
 KXA spent **"A Night on the Wild Side"** — in the jungle, actually. The set brought a little bit of the Amazon to Waco Hall as tigers and leopards and birds (oh my!) tried to shake the nerves and shake some tail feathers. The glow-in-the-dark gloves provided a unique spark to the performance as seemingly sweet sorority girls turned into scary predators.

ΣΧ
 Sigma Chi reflected on days gone by, with an overused theme and an underplanned routine, **"Break on Through."** Donning tie-dyed T-shirts and protest posters, they sang some classic songs and even had a nice Johnny Cash tribute. But the absence of passion and preparation was obvious as their final soloist was a chicken ... literally.



David Poe/Lariat staff
 Photo illustration by Luis Noble

Shreveport, La. senior Rebecca Lilley performs as one of Santa's helpers in Tri Delta's "Twas the Day After Christmas."

Additional Sing Performances:
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Lady Bears four games from clinching Big 12 title

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

With only four games left in the regular season, every game has monumental meaning for the Lady Bears.

Baylor is tied with Kansas State University for first place in the Big 12 after the University of Oklahoma Sooners handed the Wildcats a 68-65 loss Wednesday night.

But the Lady Bears still have a date with No. 15 Oklahoma State University and an away game slated with Texas A&M University.

In a similar predicament from last season, the task is clearly defined. Win the rest of the games and clinch the conference title. Lose a game and there are three teams in the mix who are just as eager for a championship.

Coming off of its largest margin of victory over a top-10 team in school history, No. 9 Baylor (23-2, 10-2) will now travel to Ames, Iowa, as it takes on the Iowa State University Cyclones.

Baylor has lost its previous two games on the road. Add the

fact that the Cyclones average 9,144 fans per game, second in the Big 12 Conference, to the equation and the Lady Bears have another overwhelming challenge waiting for them at the Hilton Coliseum.

"It's always hard to play on the road. Especially with the fan support they have, it's kind of like ours," said Jonesboro, Ark., junior Rachel Allison. "It's just hard to play out there with the band and their student section into it in the back of your ear."

The game features the two reigning Big 12 Conference players of the week in Jessica Morrow and Kelsey Bolte. Morrow averaged 19.5 points and seven rebounds last week in a loss against the Longhorns and the 79-59 victory over the Sooners.

Meanwhile, Bolte, a freshman, averages 10.3 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per game on a Cyclone team that leads the Big 12 in 3-point shooting.

"You got to be out there making them drive to beat you," head coach Kim Mulkey said. "You can't give them open looks on the perimeter. They move

very well without the ball, so it's just not on-the-ball stuff. We can't get in a half-court game with them; they are very good at executing things."

Iowa State has had a roller-coaster of a season that features key wins at the University of Colorado and at Oklahoma State. However, the Cyclones also have vivid memories of losses like an 80-49 blowout at Kansas State and its most recent loss, a 60-46 defeat to Texas A&M University.

But as Mulkey said, Baylor has to prepare for the best the Cyclones have to offer. Although on paper the Lady Bears should defeat a team like the Cyclones, an upset in conference play is not a rare occurrence, especially since Iowa State has already accomplished the feat this season.

"When you go to Oklahoma State and win on the road, something we certainly weren't able to do, you're doing something right," Mulkey said.

Tip-off for Saturday's game is scheduled for 11 a.m. and will be televised nationally on Fox Sports Net.



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Senior guard Angela Tisdale outplays player of the University of Oklahoma Sunday at the Ferrell Center. Baylor won, 79-59.

K-STATE from page 1

put the Sooners up one. Curtis Jerrells drew a foul on the other end but missed both of his free throws, sending the Oklahoma crowd into a frenzy and allowing the Sooners to take away with a crucial win.

For Baylor, it was back to the drawing board after collecting its sixth loss in seven games.

The team has continually touted its lack of focus as a key to the month-long slide, and it was ultimately that lapse in focus Tuesday that handed Oklahoma a win.

"It's going to be tough, but we've got five games left," Jerrells said. "And if we continue on our one-game season and take care of those five games, we should put ourselves in pretty decent shape."

The Wildcats are led by all-world forward Michael Beasley. The 6-foot-9 freshman is averaging league-leading numbers in rebounds and points per game and is an early consensus pick for Conference Player of the Year. A comparable freshman, Oklahoma forward Blake Griffin destroyed Baylor for 46 points and 30 rebounds in two games against the Bears this year. The good news is that Baylor's already faced him twice and Drew said that should aid Baylor's defensive game plan against Beasley.

The bad news? Beasley is an improved version of Griffin, and he's coming off his eighth weekly Big 12 award. "The only thing you can say about him is he's the No. 1 pick in the (NBA) Draft," Drew said. "There's not many weaknesses in his game. He can do about everything."

Woods and Stricker advance

The Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Tiger Woods barely broke a sweat. Steve Stricker went into overtime for the second straight day. They had only one thing in common Thursday in the Accenture Match Play Championship, which ultimately was all that mattered.

Both are still playing. One day after a stunning comeback to survive the opening round, Woods built a quick lead against Arron Oberholser and never gave him much hope in a 3-and-2 victory.

The thrills belonged to Steve Stricker, who made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 19th hole to extend the match, then beat Presidents Cup teammate Hunter Mahan with a birdie putt just inside 50 feet. It was the second straight day Stricker won in 20 holes.

It was the second straight year that Phil Mickelson was given a long weekend off. Fresh of a victory at Riviera, he couldn't make enough birdies to keep up with Stuart Appleby, who couldn't miss.

Men's golf team claims Rice Intercollegiate title

By Brian Bateman
Sports writer

After winning the Rice Intercollegiate Invitational, the Baylor men's golf team is preparing for a mid-week tournament.

"You know, tournaments are hard to win," head coach Greg Priest said. "I think it's definitely good to get a win, that's your goal."

The Bears scored 878 points to lead the field, with University of California at Davis at 880, the University of the Pacific at 884 and the University of Mem-

phis 887. Eight other schools competed, including Rice University, who finished No. 8, and the University of Nebraska, who came in No. 11.

Baylor held a three-shot lead going into the final round over the University of Memphis, but the University of California at Davis flipped positions with the Tigers, finishing just two shots behind the Bears.

Bill Allcorn, an Abilene junior, tied with senior teammate Wes Williams for No 12 overall.

"I thought that our guys handled themselves well," Priest

said Tuesday. "There was a little bit of pressure since all the scores were counted, but we played well."

The Bears played with just four players due to Jacksboro sophomore Colton Williams' withdrawal to attend a funeral.

Baylor scored just a 282 in the first round, the best start in the tournament's history.

"That first round Bill (Allcorn) played, he shot a 70," Priest said.

But Allcorn, who has struggled with consistency, had trouble in the later rounds.

"He's got a tendency to build a good shot, as of late, and then he's found a way to let it get away from him," Priest said.

But Allcorn was able to come back.

"It's good to start off a season with a win, especially being down a man," Allcorn said. "All our scores counted, which made us play harder."

Austin sophomore Jeff Gerlich noticed part of his game improved since the fall.

"My decision making has improved," he said. "I've been more consistent."

It was the second tournament victory of the year for the Bears, who look to create a streak in Houston-area competitions. The Bears will return to Houston for the All-American Golf Classic Monday and Tuesday in Spring.

The tournament field hasn't been announced, but Baylor will need to make adjustments no matter why they are playing, Priest said.

"This team is a pretty resilient team," Priest said. "We've continued to make mistakes, but we have found a way to bounce back."

2012: Baylor vs. Notre Dame scheduled at Superdome

By Joe Holloway
Reporter

The last time Baylor's football team played the University of Notre Dame, Bill Clinton was in the midst of the Lewinsky scandal, John Glenn was orbiting the Earth as the oldest person ever in space, and America had just enjoyed watching Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa slug out a record-breaking summer in pursuit of Roger Maris' single season home-run record.

It was 1998. The Bears, led by head coach Dave Roberts, were unranked and outmatched against the No. 16 team in the nation. Playing in front of more

than 80,000 fans on the road, Baylor lost 3-27.

Now it looks like the Bears will get a chance to go another round with the Fighting Irish. But, since the game is scheduled for 2012, it will be up to future players to win the bout.

Nevertheless, anticipation for the game has many people buzzing, especially from a recruiting perspective.

"It will give us national exposure," athletic director Ian McCaw said. "It will really help us from a recruiting standpoint."

Originally the game was supposed to be played in the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium in

Arlington. But due to changes in Big 12 television contracts, it will now be played in the Louisiana Superdome and broadcast on NBC.

"I think it's a good move," said Jason Howell, publisher for SicEmSports.com. "As far as recruiting, Baylor's been wanting to get more into Louisiana and they lost out on a couple of guys from there this year."

About an eight to nine hour drive from Waco, the Superdome is certainly a longer drive for Baylor fans than Arlington would have been. However, a good turnout is still anticipated.

"It's close enough to Texas

that people can make the trip fairly easy," Howell said. "Everybody that I've talked to seems to like it."

The Superdome, and the city of New Orleans itself, are certainly iconic images. Howell added that he thought the trip could provide those who choose to make it with a nice little vacation.

"It should provide a good atmosphere," he said. "I think it'll be a good deal for everybody."

McCaw seemed excited by the prospect of taking on the Irish in the Big Easy.

"New Orleans just seemed like a natural location," he said.

"Having a chance to play a program like that and being in a location that will give our fans a chance to enjoy that game and be a part of that event is great."

Though 2012 seems like a long time away, it's far from unusual to schedule games that far in advance.

"We just scheduled one for 2016," McCaw said.

But even with games of such a high caliber lurking in the years ahead, Baylor still has plenty of football to be played in the coming season and no one knows that more than McCaw.

"We're spending most of our time getting ready for 2008," he said.

Duke lacrosse players sue school, city for emotional distress

By Mike Baker
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — More than three dozen current and former Duke lacrosse players filed a lawsuit Thursday claiming they suffered emotional distress during the furor over the now-dis-

credited rape case against three of their teammates.

The lawsuit accuses Duke University, the City of Durham and several school and police officials of fraud, abuse and breach of duty for supporting the prosecution of the case.

The lawsuit accuses the pri-

vate university of implying the highly ranked team was guilty by canceling its season after the rape allegation surfaced.

It also accuses Duke of ignoring, suppressing and discrediting evidence that proved the players innocent, and of idly standing by while players suf-

fered abuse and harassment on campus.

"This lawsuit is born out of Duke and Durham's sustained wrongdoing and callous conduct against the players," lead attorney Chuck Cooper said while announcing the lawsuit at a news conference in Washing-

ton, D.C.

The lawsuit also accuses former Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong and his investigators of hiding and fabricating evidence and argues that the city of Durham should be held accountable for Nifong's actions.

THIS WEEKEND IN BAYLOR ATHLETICS

BASKETBALL

Baylor vs. **Kansas State** #24
Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Baylor vs. **Purdue** #15

BASEBALL OPENING WEEKEND!

Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Baylor vs. **Wake Forest**
Saturday 11:00 a.m.

EQUESTRIAN

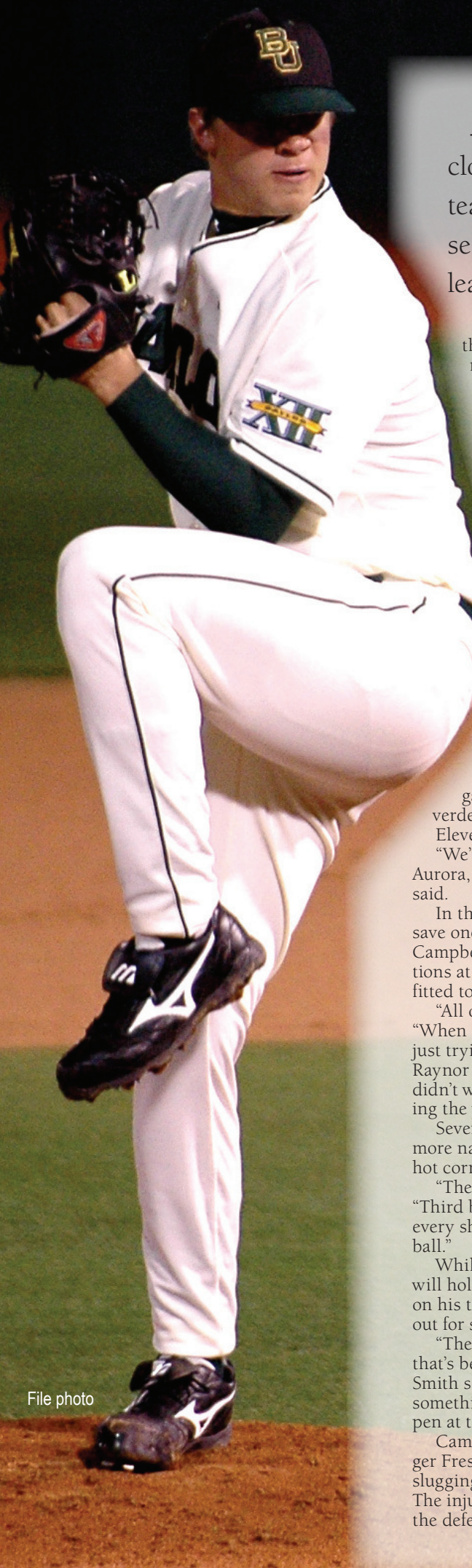
FRIDAY
Baylor vs. Kansas State
SATURDAY
Baylor vs. Purdue

MEN'S TENNIS

Baylor vs. **UConn**
Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Stepping up to the plate

By Brian Bateman • Sports writer



File photo

As February draws to a close, the Baylor baseball team winds up for a long season — one the Bears hope leads them to Omaha.

Last year's young squad took half of the season to gel, but ended the year by making the Big 12 championship game. Their 35-27 record earned an NCAA tournament berth in Houston, where Texas Christian University eliminated the Bears, 10-5.

This season, the Bears expect much better.

"We've got a lot of talented players," head coach Steve Smith said. "I don't remember a year where the players are this far along."

Part of that improvement comes from the extra weeks in the new season format. In an effort to cancel out poor weather in the North, the first day of practice is capped on Feb. 1, and the first official game can be no sooner than Feb. 22.

But the extra time has given the Bears a chance to practice.

"We got a couple more inter-squad games in, so that's going to help us," Bulverde sophomore pitcher Kendal Volz said. Eleven more, to be exact.

"We're tired of beating up on each other," Aurora, Colo., sophomore catcher Gregg Glime said.

In the infield, the Bears return every starter save one from last year. However, Raynor Campbell and Shaver Hansen switched positions at second and third base, a move better fitted to their talents, Smith said.

"All of the infielders are shortstops," he said. "When they all came in as freshmen, we were just trying to figure out where to put them. Raynor wound up at third, Shaver at second. I didn't want to start shuffling them around during the year."

Several costly errors at second base and a more natural fit at third brought Hansen to the hot corner.

"The key to all of this is Shaver," Smith said. "Third base is the toughest base to play. Not every shortstop can play up and still get to the ball."

While Hansen holds down third, Campbell will hold down the bench. Undergoing surgery on his thumb, Campbell's injury will keep him out for six or seven weeks.

"The injury's the only real disappointment that's been going on for the past few weeks," Smith said. "I guess if you're going to have something like that happen, it's better to happen at the beginning of the year."

Campbell was placed on the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America team for his .474 slugging percentage and .321 batting average. The injury won't cause much of a drop-off on the defensive end, but his replacement, Chan-

dlar, Ariz., freshman Landis Ware, could have trouble filling his offensive production during that time.

McGregor sophomore Dustin Dickerson will guard first and Virginia Beach, Va., junior Beamer Weems will handle shortstop duties. *Baseball America* named Weems the top defender in the nation, and the Wallace Award, for the nation's top college player, added him to the preseason watch list.

"It's always an honor to get preseason awards, but it doesn't mean anything to the team," Weems said.

At catcher, the Bears will miss Matt Czimskey's team-leading .362 RBI, as well as his leadership. Glime spent time in 19 games last spring, including three starts, but he realizes he has a hole to fill.

"(Czimskey) was definitely a big player on our team, so I've got some big shoes to fill," Glime said. "I think (catcher) is really important as a leadership role."

Glime will be giving signals to the mound, where the Bears are stacked with talent. Volz returns with Van sophomore Wade Mackey, Castroville sophomore Willie Kempf and Mesquite senior Randall Linebaugh behind him. Added to the mix is senior closer Nick Cassevechia and redshirt-freshman Shawn Tolleson, who give the Bears what Smith calls "one of his deepest (bullpens) ever."

Volz struck out 65 batters last season in 68 innings, but managed just a 5.16 ERA. Cassevechia, Baylor's other Wallace Award watch list member, had 72 and a 3.12 ERA and 11 saves.

"I think all of us just matured and got better this fall," Volz said. "We got a lot of confidence. There are a lot of quality pitchers."

Tolleson, who underwent Tommy John surgery after an injury in 2006, will likely make his first collegiate start this weekend. A member of the nation's No. 1 recruiting class in 2006, he plans to work his way into the weekend rotation.

"It's taking me a long time to get back, but I'm ready to pitch," Tolleson said. "We've got a lot of good pitchers out there, and I'm going to try and compete for a starting position."

In the outfield, the Bears lost a quality player in center fielder Chase Gerdes, but Sugar Land senior Paul Miles has experience - and speed. Lorena junior Ben Booker will work in left field, while Channelview sophomore Aaron Miller will return from a broken arm to play in right.

Last year the Bears finished sixth in the Big 12 conference, but Baylor expects to end much higher. *Baseball America* ranked the Bears No. 15 in the nation, and the coaches picked Baylor to finish third in conference.

"There are some good teams in the conference, but I'd like to finish higher," Weems said. Some of those teams include No. 16 University of Texas, No. 6 University of Missouri and No. 21 Texas A&M University. All will prove difficult for the Bears throughout the season.

Baylor will begin out-of-conference play today when Purdue comes to the Baylor Ballpark. It will give the Bears a chance to finally get out and play.

"It's a lot different for us pitchers when the stands are full and there's a man in the box," Volz said.

Key starters

Name: Kendal Volz
Position: SP
Height: 6' 4"
Weight: 228 lbs.
Hometown: Bulvedere
Classification: SO
SOs: 65
ERA: 5.2



Volz

Name: Nick Cassavechia
Position: CP
Height: 6'
Weight: 183 lbs.
Hometown: Dallas
Classification: SR
SOs: 72
ERA: 3.1



Cassavechia

Name: Beemer Weems
Position: SS
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 176 lbs.
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Va.
Classification: JR
HR: 9
RBI: 59



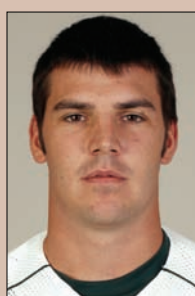
Weems

Name: Aaron Miller
Position: RF
Height: 6' 3"
Weight: 210 lbs.
Hometown: Channelview
Classification: SO
HR: 4
RBI: 35



Miller

Name: Ben Booker
Position: F
Height: 6' 3"
Weight: 197 lbs.
Hometown: Lorena
Classification: JR
HR: 2
RBI: 32



Booker

Name: Raynor Campbell
Position: 2B
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 182 lbs.
Hometown: Katy
Classification: SO
HR: 5
RBI: 29



Campbell

Big 12 Predictions

1. Texas — Year in, year out, the Longhorns compete for a Big 12 title. This season will be no different. One of the top offenses in the nation last year, Texas compiled 6.5 runs per game, which isn't hard when five players ended the season with better than a .300 batting average. For Texas to make the College World Series, the pitching will have to step up, which allowed 4.9 runs per game last year. Tomball outfielder Kyle Russell, Rockwall catcher Preston Clark and Round Rock outfielder Jordan Danks should set the mark to beat for the Big 12. Texas is the preseason favorite, but baseball is known for upsets. The Longhorns' April 11 weekend series at Missouri and the State Farm Lone Star Showdown in May will be essential.

2. Missouri — Missouri's rise has come suddenly and unexpectedly: 2007 was the first year the Tigers posted less than 20 losses since 1999. But the Tigers aren't content with just a 19-8 conference record; they are aiming for a College World Series appearance — and rightfully so. The Tigers will have to replace three infielders, especially Brock Bond, who left for the MLB draft. On the pitcher's mound the Tigers have one of the best arms in the nation. Aaron Crow pitched in 117 and two-thirds innings, struck out 90 batters and pitched two complete games. Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 11, when the Tigers go head-to-head against the Longhorns at Taylor Stadium for what might determine the regular season title.

3. Baylor — Eight underclassmen starters return from a 35-27 season, and with them they bring another year of experience. A solid infield returns, featuring both Katy sophomore Raynor Campbell and junior Beamer Weems, who led the team with 47 RBIs. Strong pitching will work wonders for the Bears, as closer Nick Cassavechia, who had 11 saves and 72 strikeouts in just 52 innings, returns with extra strength in front of him. If the Bears hope to push for the title, they will have to have consistent play from underclassmen. Pitching will carry the Bears through their out-of-conference schedule, but the Big 12 will cause problems if the Bears struggle.

4. Texas A&M — 13-13 in conference play doesn't usually equate with success the following year, but the Aggies look to change that assumption. A veteran group returns with nine players batting over .300, including senior infielder Blake Stouffer, who amassed 85 RBIs and a .668 slugging percentage on 102 hits. While the hot bats will carry over into 2008, a rotation on the mound could cause internal trouble. Texas A&M lost Kyle Nicholson and David Newmann to graduation. Each logged more than 100 innings on the field. While several good pitchers remain, the bullpen will be the question mark on the season. If the Aggies can solidify a weekend rotation, they will be in place to battle for the conference championship.

5. Oklahoma — Oklahoma is possibly the youngest team this year. Four of the top five offensive threats have graduated, as well as two important pitchers. But what does remain is a strong crew returning from an 11-16 season. Infielder Aaron Baker leads the returning squad with 50 RBIs. Oklahoma will have to find solid pitching if it wants to compete for the title, but competition for second or third is well within the Sooners' grasp.

6. Nebraska — Graduation took a bite out of the Huskers, leaving the team young but talented. Nebraska lost Andrew Brown, who was the offensive slugger. They will have to find a bat to make noise in the conference. In the circle, righty Johnny Dorn will have to make up for the loss of Luke Wertz and Matt Foust. His 10-3 record will help ease that transition. The Huskers are talented enough to jump on unsuspecting teams and pull an upset or two, but don't expect Nebraska to boast a Big 12 championship.

7. Kansas State — The Wildcats finished No. 7 in the Big 12 but failed to post double-digit numbers in the win column. But things might change this spring. Pitcher Daniel Edwards returns, collecting 11 saves and keeping opponents to just a 1.73 batting average last year. On offense, Tomball outfielder Byron Wiley returns with a .366 batting average, a .494 on base percentage and converting 14 of 15 steals. Kansas State should compete with the pack, but shouldn't rise or fall too far from No. 5.

8. Oklahoma State — A senior-laden 2007 team gave Cowboy fans a strong 42-21 showing, but unfortunately students eventually graduate. What is left is anyone's guess. Seven of nine starters are gone from the field, and the veteran pitching left with them. First baseman Rebel Ridling and Jordy Mercer will have to lead the 'Pokes if they want to compete in the Big 12. Mercer's role will have to extend to the mound. Establishing himself as the club's best closer, he will be called upon often to finish off opponents. Andrew Oliver and Aerick Taylor will have to mature quickly. Look for the Cowboys to finish much lower than last season's 16-11 conference record.

9. Texas Tech — Last season is one the Red Raiders would like to forget, ending the season dead last of the 10 teams playing baseball in the Big 12. Fortunately, there isn't anywhere to go but up. With a revamped coaching staff and FieldTurf installed at Dan Law field, Lubbock might be in store for a competitive squad. For the Red Raiders to become competitive with the middle of the pack, incoming transfers and freshmen will have to make their presence felt, as well as turning a 4-13 road record on its head. The Raiders will probably rise a few slots, but it's not something to get your guns up for.

10. Kansas — The Jayhawks came within one game of .500, going 28-30 last year, thanks in part to redshirt-senior outfielder John Allman's performance last year. Kansas returns most of 2007's starters, but holes in the infield will probably make their presence felt early. The Jayhawk faithful will hope for a stronger bullpen, which averaged only a 4.47 ERA. If that doesn't improve, Kansas will have to attend to business at the plate. Don't expect much from the depleted Jayhawks but a few, scattered "Rock Chalk, Jayhawk" cheers.